

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4478

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING
THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 3-9, 1977.

2. ON JUNE 4, 1977, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT SALGADO, JOSE
MARIA, AN EX-AGENT OF THE FEDERAL POLICE WAS
KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES IN FLORES, BS. AS. SALGADO PARTICIPATED
IN THE BOMBING OF THE FEDERAL SUPERINTENDENCY DINING ROOM ON JULY
2, 1976. TWENTY-THREE PERSONS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND 70 OR MORE
INJURED IN THIS BOMBING. ON THE SAME DATE, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT
THREE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED IN A BATTLE WITH SECURITY FORCES NEAR
THE UNIV. OF BUENOS AIRES SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND MEDICINE.
TWO OF THE TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY WERE WOMEN.
JUNE 6 LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT SECURITY FORCES INVOLVED
IN A CONGRONTATION WITH THE OCCUPANTS OF A VEHICLE PARKED
IN FRONT OF A HOUSE THEY WERE ATTEMPTING
TO SEARCH. DURING THE CONFRONTATION THE TERRORISTS WERE
ALL KILLED. ON THE SAME DATE IT WAS REPORTED THAT A GROUP
OF PERSONS ATTACKED A POLICE PATROL CAR IN BUENOS AIRES
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BUT THERE WERE NO INJURIES.
ALSO ON JUNE 6, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT IN MORON,
BUENOS AIRES PROV., A GROUP OF PERSONS ENTERED A PRIMARY
SCHOOL OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION, DID MINOR
DAMAGE, SET FIRE TO THREE CLASSROOMS AND LEFT NEWSPAPER
CLIPPINGS CONCERNING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.
ON JUNE 7, IN QUILMES, PROV. OF BS. AS., A TERRORIST

DRIVING A PEUGEOT 504 WAS INVOLVED IN A SHOOTOUT WITH SECURITY FORCES. HE WAS WOUNDED BUT ESCAPED. ON THE SAME DATE, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THE DEATH OF JULIO ROQUE IN THE CONFRONTATION THAT TOOK PLACE ON 30 MAY IN HAEDO DISTRICT, PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. PRESS IDENTIFIED ORROQUE AS A LONG TIME TERRORIST WHO WAS THE PRINCIPAL MONTONERO LEADER IN ARGENTINA. ROQUE'S CAREER OF TERRORISM REPORTEDLY BEGAN IN 1969. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS BANK ROBBERIES, THE MURDER OF AN ARMY LT. AND THE ASSASSINATION OF GENL. SANCHEZ IN AUGUST 1972. HE WAS PARDONED BY THE CAMPORA GOVT IN 1973. IN 1976 HE BECAME PART OF THE MONTONEROS NATIONAL SECRETARIAT. HE REPORTEDLY DEPARTED THE COUNTRY THE END OF LAST YEAR AND RETURNED ONE MONTH AGO. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INFORMED RSO THAT ROQUE HAD BEEN THE PRINCIPAL MONTONERO LEADER SINCE FERMINICH HAD DEPARTED ARGENTINA.

JUNE 8, THE PRESS RELATED THAT SECURITY FORCES HAD OBTAINED A DOCUMENT BELONGING TO THE MONTONERO ORGANIZATION WHICH REFLECTED THAT MANY MEMBERS WERE DESERTING THE ORGANIZATION AS A RESULT OF THE NUMEROUS LOSSES THAT HAD OCCURRED AND THAT MEMBERS LACKED CONFIDENCE IN THE FINAL VICTORY OF THEIR MOVEMENT.

3. RSO COMMENT: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES STATED THAT SINCE OCT. 76 THERE HAS BEEN A SERIOUS SPLIT IN THE MONTONERO MOVEMENT. THE SPLIT HAS DEVELOPED FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, THE NOMINAL LEADERSHIP HAS LEFT ARGENTINA AND HAS BEEN LIVING COMFORTABLY IN FRANCE, ITALY AND POSSIBLY SPAIN. SECOND, IT IS CLEAR TO MANY MEMBERS OF THE

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MONTONEROS THAT THE MILITARY CAPABILITY HAS BEEN ALMOST TOTALLY ELIMINATED. THEY FEEL THAT THE MONTONERO LEADERSHIP HAS WASTED THIS MILITARY CAPABILITY IN ATTACKING TARGETS THAT DID NOT GENERATE PUBLIC SUPPORT. THE MILITARY ARM AND THE POLITICAL ARM OF THE MONTONERO PARTY WERE OUT OF TUNE IF LOSSES CONTINUE THE PARTY AS A POLITICAL FORCE WILL BE ELIMINATED.

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